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POLISH COAL MEETS FOREIGN COMPETITION

COAL SALES DECREASE -- Quackenbrock Polak, No 18, 4 May 50

Since the beginning of the present regime, Poland's entire economy has been based on the Slask coal basin's productivity. Conditions on the international market immensely favored coal production as a sound foundation for both the domestic and foreign trade balances. The demand for Slask coal was so universal and so large that Warsaw could use this as her trump card in political dealings. But, since 1949, the Polish coal situation on the international market has deteriorated.

After studying the present economic situation in Poland, Andre Fontaine, a well-known French journalist with the Paris daily Le Monde, gave the following reasons for the decline in sales of Polish coal:

1. The USSR, considered the greatest but not the best customer for Polish coal, has recently reduced her coal orders because of her own intensified coal production.
2. Nations in the Eastern Bloc, conducting their own economy in accordance with Moscow's instructions and directives, have also reduced their demands for coal.
3. Warsaw, faithful to orders from the Kremlin, lost one of her most valuable coal customers, Yugoslavia.
4. France reduced her coal orders because of the diplomatic quarrels between the two nations. Since French orders were figured in dollars, they were of great importance to Poland's international trade balance.

In addition, Poland's coal-production costs have increased. After a large number of German prisoners of war employed in the Slask coal mines had left the country, they were replaced by inexperienced "recruited" members of the Service for Poland organization. The results obtained were by no means satisfactory.

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It is obvious that Polish coal sales on the world's market will influence to a large measure the expansion of other branches of Poland's economy. The government's purchases of various products, raw materials, machinery, etc., necessary to the economic life of Poland, depends upon the amount of cash flowing into the treasury from coal sales.

REDUCE PRICE OF BUNKER COAL -- Stockholm Svenska Dagbladet, 1 Aug 50

On 31 July, the Baltic and International Maritime Conference, the international shipping company association which has its headquarters in Copenhagen, received a telegram from the Polish national coal company that the price of bunker coal at Polish ports has been reduced considerably. Heretofore, the price has been 14 dollars per 1,000 kilograms. As of 1 August, the price of coal delivered FOB and in quantities up to 50 tons is about 13 dollars per ton, and in quantities up to 500 tons and over, 12 dollars per ton.

The message also said that vessels stopping exclusively at Polish ports to take on coal will get a discount on the above prices.

RECEIVE TRACTORS FROM USSR -- Warsaw Polska Zorojna, No 183, 5 Jul 50

In June 1950, the Central Supply Office of the TOR (Technical Farm Service) in Lublin received 200 tractors from the USSR in accordance with the trade pact. These tractors will be distributed to state farms and agricultural producers' cooperatives in Lublin Wojewodztwo.

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